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INFORM CONSUL

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SUBJECT: OASGA 11 - COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER' S SPEECH

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER VASQUEZ CARRIOZOSA, ADDRESSING
OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON APRIL 6, STATED THAT REGIONAL
ORGANIZATION MUST INSTITUTE REFORMS NECESSARY TO SAVE IT-
SELF OR PASSIVELY SUFFER A PROCESS OF DEMISE. IF IT CANNOT
ATTUNE ITSELF TO THE TIMES, LATIN AMERICA WILL TURN TO
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OTHER EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS TO RESOLVE ITS PROBLEMS. OAS MUST BECOME A FORUM FOR POLICY CONVERGENCE BETWEEN THE U. S. AND LATIN AMERICA, AND COLOMBIA BELIEVES THAT THE U. S. CAN NO MORE DIVORCE ITSELF FROM THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF THIS CONTINENT THAN THEY CAN DIVORCE THEMSELVES FROM THE FIRST INDUSTRIAL POWER AND MOST TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED NATION OF THE WORLD. END SUMMARY

1. VASQUEZ CARRIZOSA NOTED THAT THE INTER- AMERICAN SYSTEM WAS ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED FOR REASONS OTHER THAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, BUT THAT IN TODAY' S WORLD A MECHANISM FOR INTER- AMERICAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT IS A NECESSITY. THIS SPHERE IS NOW THE ACHILLES HEEL OF THE OAS. GRAVE SITUATIONS OF CONFRONTATION HAVE ARISEN IN CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS, PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS OF UNDERDEVELOPMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ADVANCED, AND A GENERAL CONSENSUS AS TO THE DEFICIENCIES OF THE SYSTEM HAS ARISEN. ECONOMIC PROBLEMS MUST BE ATTACHED IN REAL TERMS OF COMMERCIAL INTERCHANGE AND ACCEPTABLE PRICES FOR LATIN EXPORT ITEMS. THE RECENT MEETINGS OF CECLA, CIES, AND CEPAL HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE LATIN NATIONS' WILL TO CONSOLIDATE TO ACHIEVE THEIR COMMON AIMS. COLOMBIA SUPPORTS THE PATRIMONIAL SEA DOCTRINE, SEES THE ANDEAN PACT AS THE MOST DYNAMIC INTEGRATION SCHEME IN THE HEMISPHERE, AND SUPPORTS PANAMA IN HER EFFORTS TO REGAIN SOVEREIGNTY OVER HER ENTIRE TERRITORY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER VASQUEZ MAINTAINED THAT THE SYSTEM' S CRISIS IS ONE OF STRUCTURE, METHODS, AND PROGRAMS FOR INTER- AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COOPERATION RATHER THAN ONE OF PERSONNEL. HIS FIVE POINT PROGRAM FOR REINVIGORATION CALLS FOR LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, USE OF THE EXPERIENCE GAINED IN THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS AS A BASE FOR A NEW CONTINENTAL POLICY WITH REALISTIC GOALS AND CONCRETE PROGRAMS TO ATTAIN THEM, AN ACCORD WITH THE U. S. ON AREAS OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION, PRIOR TO A RESTRUCTURING OF THE SYSTEM, U. S. AFFIRMATION THAT A REVISED COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WILL BE BASED UPON RESPECT FOR NATIONAL AUTONOMY, AND ACCEPTANCE OF CONCEPT OF IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM WHICH COLOMBIA, HE SAID, HAS ALREADY INCORPORATED IN HER FOREIGN POLICY.

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3. VASQUEZ POINTED OUT THAT IF SYSTEM WAS TO DISAPPEAR RIO TREATY, WHICH COLOMBIA STRONGLY SUPPORTS, COULD ALSO BE ABANDONED OR LOSE ITS MEANING. THE PROMISES OF THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS NO LONGER SERVE NOR DO FACADE ORGANISMS SUCH AS THE COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATION (SCCN). THE NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE SYSTEM MUST BE BASED UPON PROPOSITION THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CONTROL THEIR INTERNATIONAL MARKETS FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT. LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, OR AT LEAST COORDINATION IN ENTITIES SUCH AS CECLA, ARE THE ONLY MEANS TO CONFRONT THE COMMERCIAL BLOCKS OF THE RICH NATIONS.

4. VASQUEZ CARRIZOSA STATED THAT COLOMBIA BELIEVES THAT TOTAL REVISION OF THE SYSTEM IS NECESSARY, THAT A SPECIAL HIGH LEVEL COMMISSION SHOULD SET OUT ITS GENERAL DIRECTIONS AND A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY SHOULD THEN BE CONVOKED-- BUT THAT ALL THIS IS CONTINGENT UPON A U. S.- L. A. POLITICAL UNDERSTANDING. HE WOULD RETURN THE PRIMARY PLACE IN THE SYSTEM TO THE PERMANENT COUNCIL, ORIENTATION PROGRAMS WOULD BE APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY EVERY TWO YEARS, AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL WOULD BECOME A PRAGMATIC ORGAN OF NEGOTIATION OF WORLD AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC POLICIES RATHER THAN A DEBATING FORUM.

5. VASQUEZ NOTED THAT COLOMBIA HAD SUPPORTED RIO TREATY SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA, BUT SOONER OR LATER RECONCILIATION HAD TO OCCUR IN SPITE OF IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES AND THAT THIS RECONCILIATION WOULD HAVE TO TAKE PLACE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF RESPECT FOR NATIONAL AUTONOMY. HE NOTED GENERAL ASSEMBLY WAS NOT PLACE FOR JURIDICAL DECISIONS ON SANCTIONS, BUT IT HAD CAPACITY TO FORMULATE OBSERVATIONS ABOUT ISSUE. VASQUEZ MADE CLEAR COLOMBIA' S STRONG SUPPORT FOR RIO TREATY, WITHOUT WHICH LATIN AMERICA WOULD BECOME ARMED CAMP LIKE MIDDLE EAST. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER EROSION OF RIO TR
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